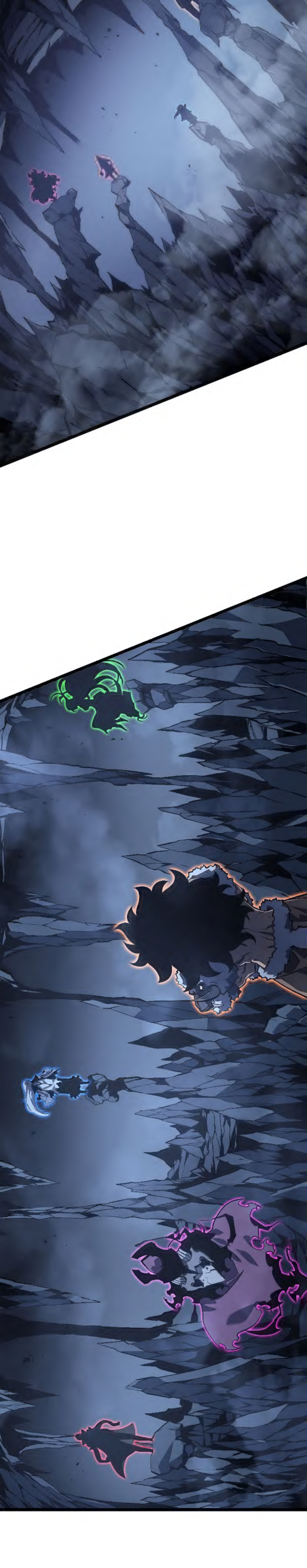


Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

152







THE MONARCH
OF SHADOWS
IS CURRENTLY
ON EARTH.




I THOUGHT YOU SAID
THERE WASN'T A VESSEL
THAT COULD CONTAIN
HIS POWERS.

ISN'T THAT WHY THE
DRAGON KING COULDN'T
REMAIN ON EARTH?



I CLEARLY
SAW HIM WITH
MY OWN TWO
EYES.

HE'S MUCH MORE
OF A THREAT THAN
THE FRAGMENTS OF
BRILLIANT LIGHT.



I WILL GET
RID OF HIM.

WILL YOU
HELP ME?

CHOOSING
TO FIGHT AGAINST
HIM IS CHOOSING
DEATH.


OUT OF THE NINE
MONARCHS WHO REIGN
OVER CHAOS, HE'S ONE
OF THE STRONGEST.

WHY DON'T YOU
WAIT FOR THE MONARCH
OF DESTRUCTION, THE
DRAGON KING, TO
RETURN INSTEAD?

WE MAY BE ON
THE RUN RIGHT NOW,
BUT WE'RE STILL
MONARCHS.

CLENCH

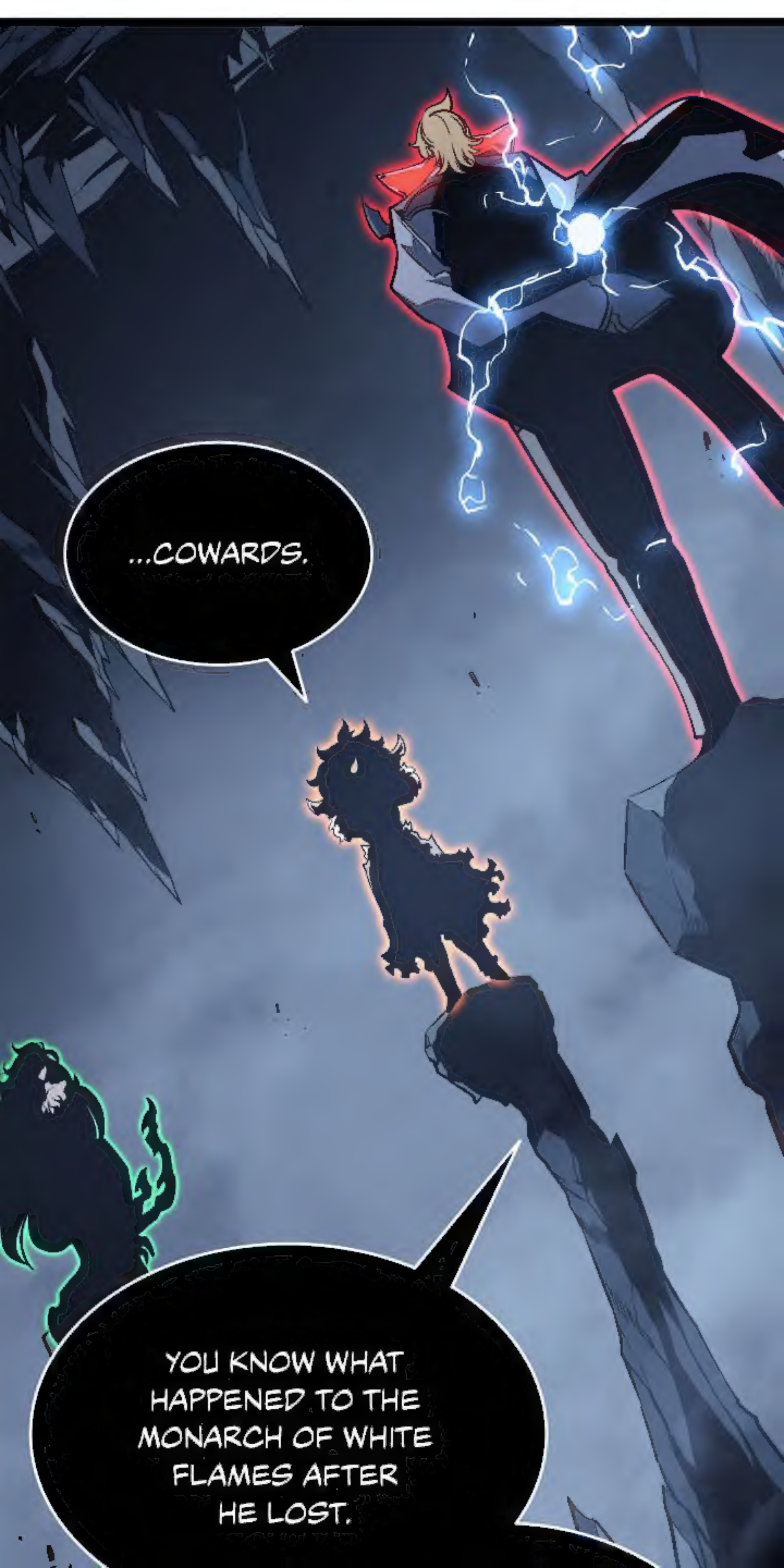
HOW MUCH
LONGER DO YOU
EXPECT US TO RELY
SOLELY ON THE
DRAGON KING?

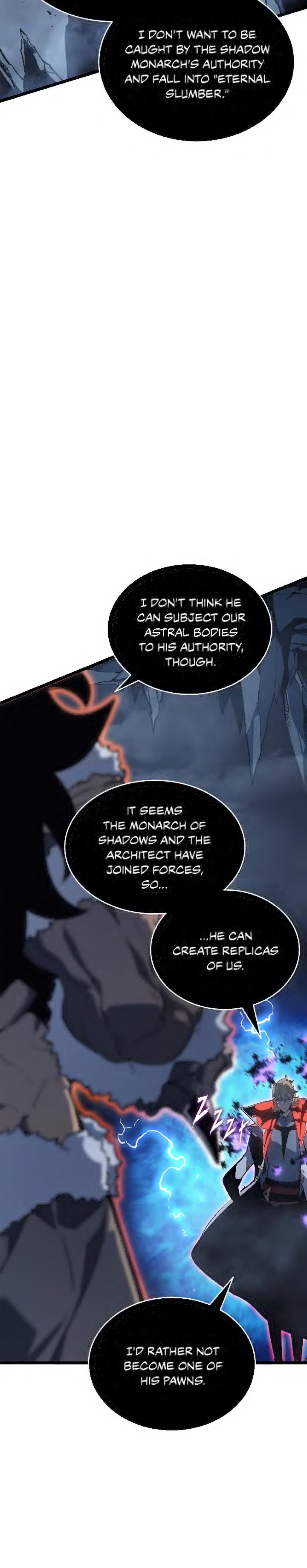


NOW'S OUR
CHANCE TO GET RID
OF THE MONARCH OF
SHADOWS, WHEN HE'S
STILL IN HIS HUMAN
FORM.

FIGHT
WITH ME.

I WILL TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY AND
SEND HIM BACK TO
NOTHINGNESS.





I DON'T WANT TO BE
CAUGHT BY THE SHADOW
MONARCH'S AUTHORITY
AND FALL INTO "ETERNAL
SLUMBER."

I DON'T THINK HE
CAN SUBJECT OUR
ASTRAL BODIES
TO HIS AUTHORITY,
THOUGH.

IT SEEMS
THE MONARCH OF
SHADOWS AND THE
ARCHITECT HAVE
JOINED FORCES,
SO...

...HE CAN
CREATE REPLICAS
OF US.

I'D RATHER NOT
BECOME ONE OF
HIS PAWNS.





HE HAD APPLIED
POISON ON HIS DAGGER.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING
ASHBORN, THE MONARCH
OF SHADOWS, WOULD
DO.



POISON...?

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF THE
MONARCH OF SHADOWS WERE
CONTROLLING THE HUMAN'S
BODY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE
RESORTED TO SUCH A
PETTY TRICK.



DO I HAVE YOUR
SUPPORT THEN?





I WILL HELP
YOU.


LET'S KILL
THE SHADOW
MONARCH.



"THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT
WHO WILL PROTECT YOUR
LIFE IF ANOTHER S-RANK
GATE WERE TO SPAWN."



"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO
BUY BACK YOUR LIFE EVEN
IF YOU PAID HUNDREDS... NO,
THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE
THAN WHAT YOU PAID FOR
YOUR HOUSE."




BACK WHEN
SUNG JINWOO WAS
BATTLING THE ANTS
ON JEJU ISLAND,

CHAIRMAN
GO GUNHEE, WHO
WAS WATCHING THE
BROADCAST WITH
ME, SAID...

...HE COULD DIE IN
PEACE, NOW THAT HIS
LIFELONG WISH HAD
BEEN FULFILLED.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK
HE'D PASS AWAY SO
SOON...





I CAN'T
DETECT HIS
MANA.

AS I SUSPECTED,
THIS ISN'T GOING
TO WORK.

STATUS

NAME: SUNG JINWOOD Lv.133

JOB: THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS

TITLE: DEMON HUNTER (+2 MORE)

HP: 78,230

MP: 136,160

FATIGUE: 3


STRENGTH: 308 HEALTH: 307

AGILITY: 316

INTELLIGENCE: 321

SENSE: 298

AP: 0




...THAT'S ENOUGH
FOR TODAY. I'M NOT
HERE TO FIGHT WITH
MY LIFE ON THE
LINE.

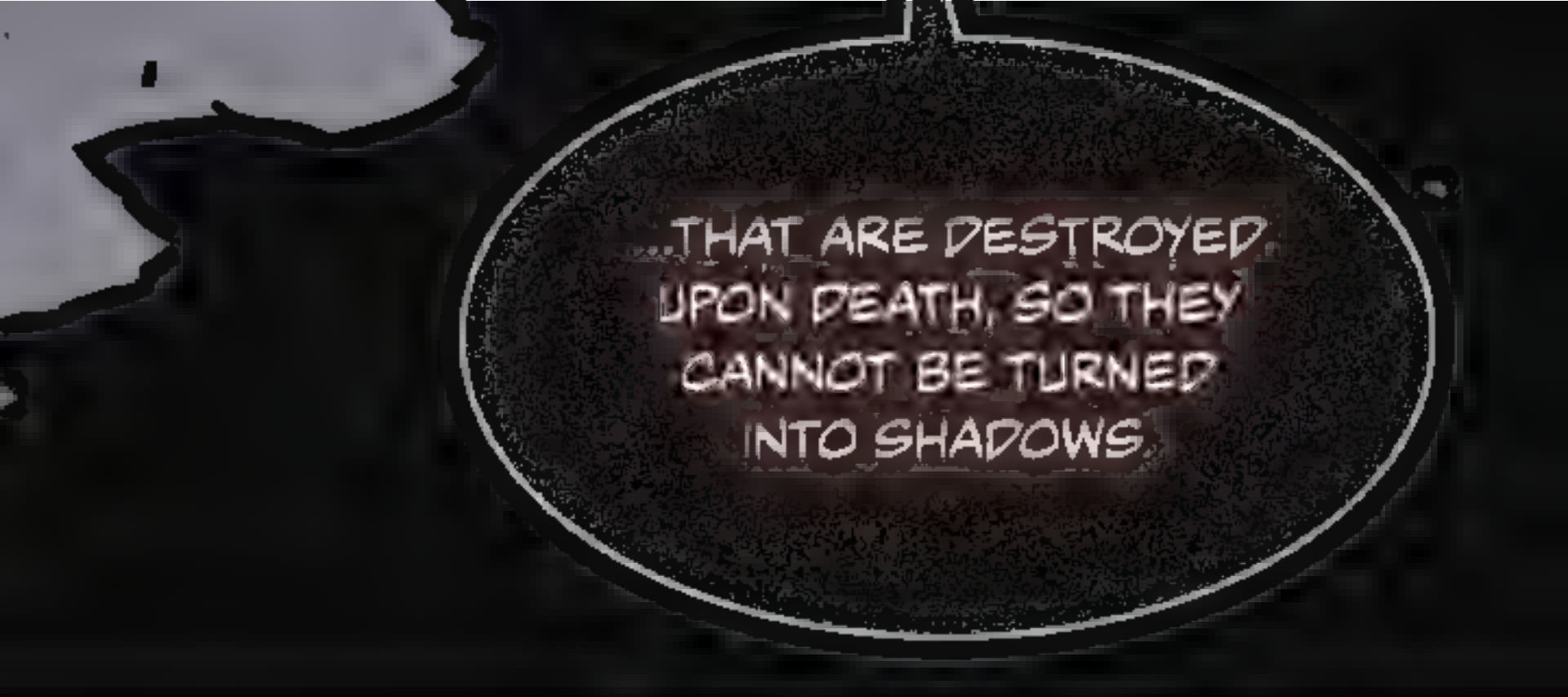
HE DIDN'T HAVE
A SHADOW.

"ASTRAL
BODIES"...
THAT'S WHAT I
WAS TOLD.

THE KING OF GIANTS TOLD ME
MONARCHS AND RULERS CAN'T
BECOME SHADOW SOLDIERS
BECAUSE THEY ARE MADE
OF ASTRAL BODIES.

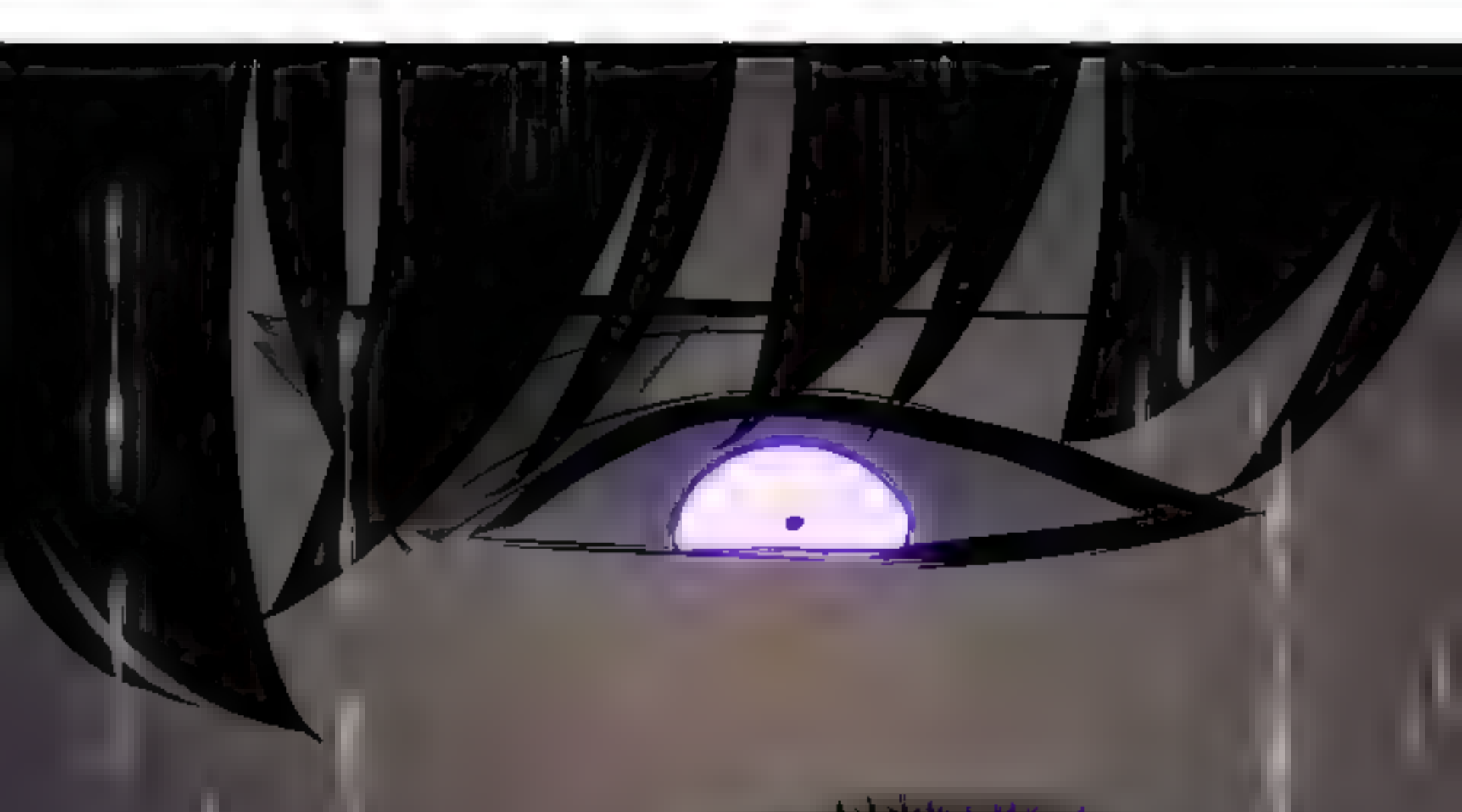


MONARCHS AND
RULERS ARE MADE OF
ASTRAL BODIES...




...THAT ARE DESTROYED
UPON DEATH, SO THEY
CANNOT BE TURNED
INTO SHADOWS.

IF THAT IS ALSO WHY
MONARCHS DO NOT HAVE
SHADOWS, THEN I'VE JUST
LOST ONE OF THE BEST
WAYS TO TRACK HIM DOWN.



WELL,
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

*AS LONG AS
I'M A HUNTER,*



*I WON'T LET
MY PREY GET
AWAY.*

IT'S BEEN
OVER A WEEK SINCE
THE CHAIRMAN'S
PASSING.

IT'S TIME WE
DECIDED ON HIS
SUCCESSOR.


THE FACT THAT THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE KOREAN
HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION
WAS AN S-RANK HUNTER
HELD GREAT MEANING.

BUT NOW THAT
WE'VE LOST SUCH A
MONUMENTAL FIGURE,
WHO WILL BE ABLE
TO OVERSEE THE FIVE
MAJOR GUILDS?




ARE YOU
SUGGESTING WE
RECRUIT AN S-RANK TO
THE ASSOCIATION?

A close-up of two men in dark suits and ties. The man on the right, with glasses and a slight smile, is speaking. The man on the left has a more serious expression.




HIGH-RANKING HUNTERS
MAY BE INFLUENTIAL, BUT WE
SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS OF
BRINGING IN OUTSIDERS.

A close-up of a man in a dark suit and tie, speaking with a serious expression.



THEN WHAT DO
YOU SUPPOSE WE
DO...?

A close-up of a man in a dark suit and tie, speaking with a questioning expression.




AFTER MUCH
DISCUSSION, THE
DIRECTORS AND I
HAVE DECIDED TO
RECOMMEND...

Two men in dark suits and ties are sitting in chairs, facing forward. The man on the right is speaking.



...MR. WOO
JINCHUL AS THE
NEW CHAIRMAN.

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, is pointing his right index finger towards a man with brown hair, also in a dark suit. The man being pointed at has a surprised expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple and white light.



WHAT?
WHY ME...?

A close-up of a man with brown hair, looking slightly to the side with a surprised expression. In the background, two other men in suits are visible, one looking towards the main character and the other looking forward. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and blue light.

AS THE LATE
CHAIRMAN'S RIGHT-HAND
MAN, YOU HAVE LEARNED
THE PRACTICAL SKILLS
NEEDED FOR THE
JOB...

...AND YOU ALSO
HAVE THE LEADERSHIP
SKILLS TO RALLY THE
HUNTERS.

THERE'S
NO REQUIREMENT
STATING THAT THE
CHAIRMAN HAS TO
BE AN S-RANK.

WE NEED SOMEONE
WHO HAS INFLUENCE
OVER THE HUNTERS
AND IS FEARED BY
THE HUNTERS.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE
BELIEVE YOU FIT THE BILL,
MR. WOO, AS YOU HAVE BEEN
ARRESTING AND MANAGING
HUNTERS OVER THE YEARS
AS THE SURVEILLANCE
TEAM MANAGER.

IN MANY RESPECTS,
I AM NOT THE BEST
CANDIDATE FOR THIS
POSITION.

THERE ARE SEVERAL
OTHERS WHO OCCUPY
HIGHER POSITIONS THAN
ME. AND AREN'T I
TOO YOUNG?



THERE'S THE
VICE CHAIRMAN...

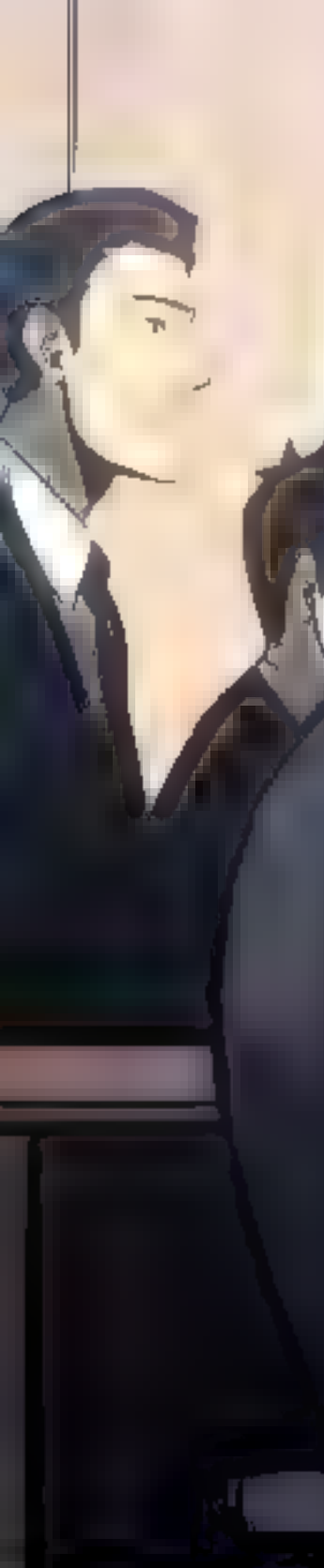
...AS WELL AS THE
DIRECTORS AND ALL THE
REGIONAL MANAGERS
GATHERED HERE
TODAY...

WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO
BE CHAIRMAN GO GUNHEE'S
SUCCESSOR WHEN THERE
ARE OTHER BETTER
CANDIDATES?


NEITHER I NOR THE OTHER
EXECUTIVES HAVE THE POWER
TO MOBILIZE THE GREATEST
FORCES OF KOREA.



YOU, HOWEVER, DO.




YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS
WITH THE MAJOR GUILDS,
AND ABOVE ALL, YOU'RE
WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH
MR. SUNG JINWOO.



WE'VE RUN INTO
EACH OTHER A NUMBER
OF TIMES, BUT I'M NOT
SURE IF HE THINKS
WE'RE CLOSE...

WE CAN'T FORCE
YOU TO ACCEPT OUR
DECISION IF THAT'S
HOW YOU REALLY
FEEL, MR. WOO.



BUT... COULD YOU AT
LEAST GIVE IT CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION?



I...





IT'S BEEN
A WHILE SINCE I'VE
COME DOWN TO THE
BASEMENT.








ARE YOU REALLY
GOING TO GIVE
IT AWAY AS A
GIFT?



DOES IT SEEM
EXCESSIVE? EVEN
IF IT'S IN EXCHANGE
FOR THE LIVES OF
ME AND MY GUILD
MEMBERS?

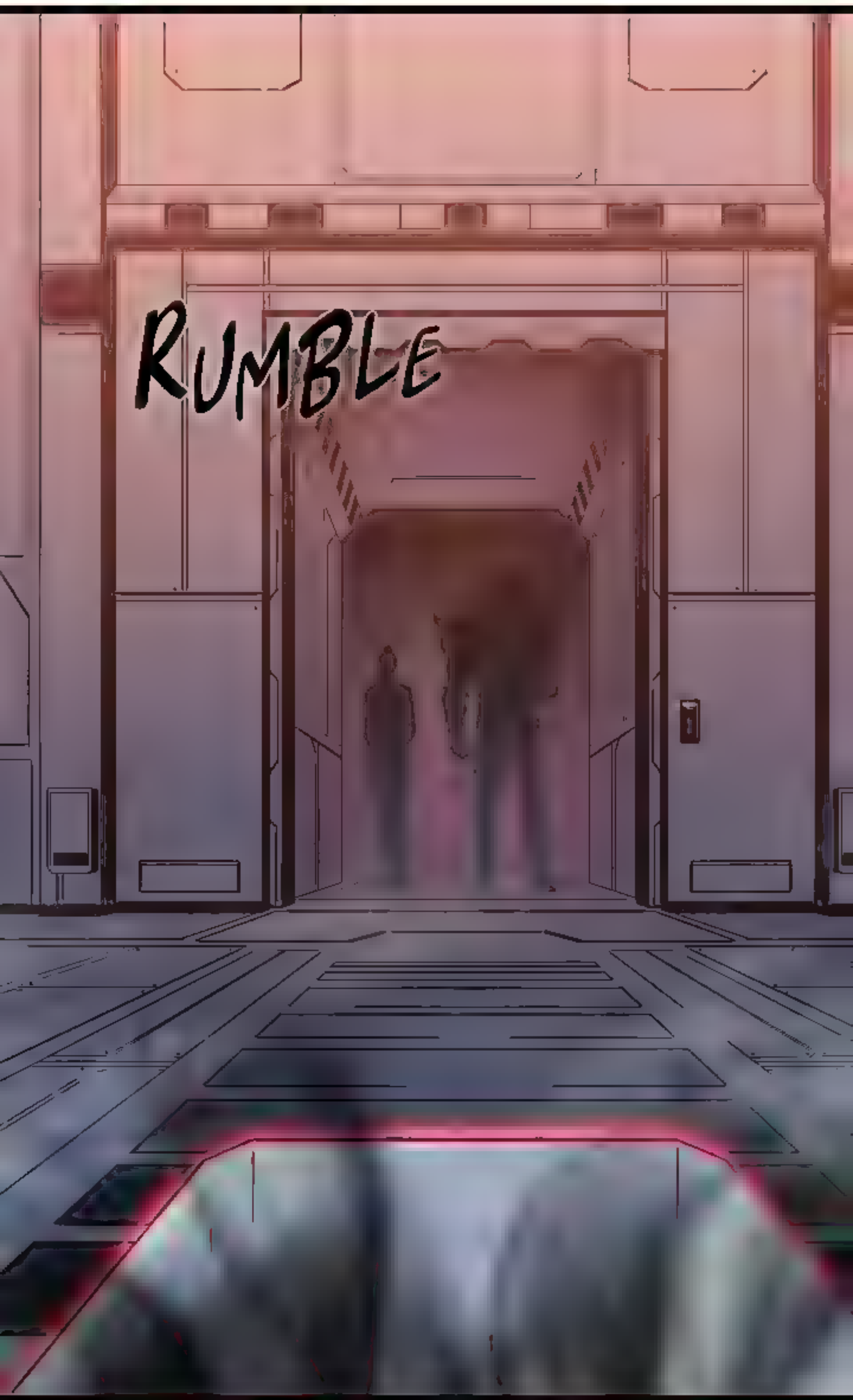


NO, NOT AT ALL,
BUT...

THEN DO YOU THINK
HE'S NOT QUALIFIED
TO USE IT?

WHIRRR

...



...IT NEVER FAILS
TO IMPRESS ME.

THERE ARE
ONLY TWO OF THESE
IN THE ENTIRE
WORLD.

AND IT'LL
ALWAYS BE THAT
WAY.

I'M SURE
IT WILL.

AND YET YOU'RE
STILL SET ON GIVING
IT AWAY?

THAT IS
PRECISELY WHY
I'M GIVING IT TO
HIM.

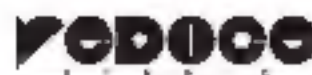


LEAVING THE
WORLD'S BEST WEAPON
HERE TO ROT IS SUCH A
WASTE, ISN'T IT?



To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling



Translator: JJoelle

Editor: Michelle Kim

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